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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

8 DEC 1976

IC 76-2449

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

FROM : George Bush

SUBJECT : Semiannual NSC Intelligence Review

REFERENCE : Your memo dated 11 June 1976 to the
Secretary of State, the Secretary of
Defense, and the Director of Central
Intelligence, Same Subject

1. The Intelligence Community Staff, in response to your request in the referenced memorandum, has prepared the attached Assessment of Foreign Intelligence Production for inclusion in the semiannual NSC review of US foreign intelligence as directed by the President in Executive Order 11905. I found it a fascinating and stimulating study.

2. This first assessment of intelligence product under the Executive Order goes somewhat beyond the directed task of identifying user requirements and assessing the timeliness and quality of intelligence reporting. The study discusses systemic problems of intelligence management and performance which affect, directly or indirectly, the satisfactory response to the needs of users. As such, it assesses intelligence performance in terms of the intelligence process, from collection and processing of intelligence information through the analysis and production of finished intelligence. This serves to alert the users of intelligence product to some of the complexities and difficulties that arise in responding to their needs. It also helps the producers to systematically address the causes of intelligence shortcomings. The Intelligence Community Staff decided to handle the task in this manner because it would provide the best beginning for a continuing evaluation of intelligence performance.

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3. You will note that the review specifies several actions that I intend to take to address the shortcomings noted in the current assessment. It also identifies several issues for NSC consideration.

SIGNED

George Bush

Attachment:

An Assessment of National Foreign
Intelligence Production, Volume I,
December 1976

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An Assessment of National Foreign Intelligence Production

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An Assessment of National Foreign Intelligence Production

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Findings on Intelligence Products

In the eyes of its users, the products of the Intelligence Community are uneven, a mixture of demonstrable strengths and significant deficiencies. This appraisal no doubt results in part from the large number of users, with diverse interests, concerns and responsibilities. But intelligence performance can be improved; indeed, it must be improved in many areas addressed in this review.

In summary, this review finds:

- An increasing diversity and sophistication in the demands of an expanding community of users.
- Inadequate Intelligence Community understanding of the needs of various sets of users and of priorities among these needs.
- General user satisfaction with current, short-term reporting on most topics and geographic regions, but a serious deficiency in anticipatory analysis which alerts policy components to possible problems in the relatively near future (one to three years).
- User desire for more multi-disciplinary analyses which integrate political, economic, technological and military factors to provide a broad appraisal of issues and events for developing US policies and programs.
- User discontent with NIEs and interagency products, especially regarding their utility, and relevance to policy issues.
- Problems in the Community's ability for early recognition of impending crises; in integration of intelligence with information on US political and military actions; and in the definition of responsibilities of the DCI and other Government officials concerned with warning and crisis information.
- User concern about what they view as unnecessary compartmentation of many intelligence products.

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SEMIANNUAL REVIEW OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

An Assessment of National Foreign Intelligence Production

Volume II

Annexes

Volume II of the Semiannual Review of Intelligence, *An Assessment of Foreign Intelligence Production*, provides supplementary data on the findings of the IC Staff concerning the timeliness and quality of intelligence pertaining to those areas and topics specifically examined in this initial Semiannual Review. The findings are based primarily on the views of policy officials and staff officers expressed in over 100 interviews conducted in September and October, 1976. The scope and emphasis developed in these annexes varies because of time limitation and the availability of interviewees.

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